

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1744.

To the AUTHOR, &c.

I Approve exceedingly of the Letters written you by Mr. Hint, who is certainly a very good Judge of Theatrical Entertainments, and knows the Strength of the present Stage to a Hair. I hope he will continue his Animadversions upon this Subject, and that you will have the Courage and Justice to them; that the Publick may know where to find impartial Remarks, upon a Topick that is really of Importance than most People esteem it; be- undoubtedly, Foreigners are, in a great Measure, led in their Notions of our Taste, and even of our good Sense, by the Plays that are acted upon the Stage; and, consequently, it is really a Point that Attraction, and is a Thing worthy the Care of the Publick, that the best Plays should be acted in the best manner. I have lately met with some Remarks upon the Subject, which please me exceedingly, and there- should be glad you would give them a Place in your Paper, till Mr. Hint thinks fit to renew his Corre- spondence on the Subjects he has promised you to con-

a Thing, says this Writer, very obvious to skilful generous Critics, that we have had our Old, our Middle Comedy, as well as the *Athenians*. Is it that charms us so much in *Shakespeare's* Plays, showing us the Virtues and Vices of our Ance- with an honest and manly Freedom? And why we not historic Plays nearer our own Times, but the Nature of Men is altered, and we cannot now what in *Shakespeare's* Time met with Applause? reign of *Henry VIII.* was as near that of *Eliza- beth* and had as close a Connection with it, as it we now to represent what passed before the Civil War. Yet who dares draw a *Stratford* or a *Land* with the Freedom that he has done *Wolsey* and *Cromwell*; and *Fletcher* come next, and the immortal *Shakespeare*; who tho' they have not the same Majesty, yet maintain a great Dignity and Freedom in all Performances; of which we scarce meet any Foot- in succeeding Poets: For amongst us, as well as the *Greeks*, Rules and Regularity have pruned the most useful Part of Dramatic Entertainments; for the Sake of gratifying a critical Taste, we have finished that Empire over the Passions, which we will sensible our old Poets attain'd; because we still from their Works, and are oblig'd to confess the efficacy of those Plays which some of our Critics condemn'd.

Should find it, perhaps, a Task too hard for us, should attempt to correct the present reigning I mean among our Poets, who are all grown to of imitating their Neighbours, that they have lately sed nothing that is Masculine or Original. But we unquestionably, if we insist upon it, bring both gers and Actors to Reason, and live to see Things more upon their old Establishment; when we had Plays, better Players, and lower Prices. There certainly a large Number of old Pieces, that if they a little alter'd, might be added to what are call'd Plays; and the reviving Two or Three of these in- ter, would vary our Entertainments, without put- ting the House to any great Expence: And if we content ourselves with this Bank of Wit, for a few Years; it is impossible that Things may take a new Turn, and saw for licensing the Stage be repeal'd; which might encourage us to hope for a new Race of Wits.

this Management, the Business of a Player, for so rank they are pleas'd to stile it, would become far less tedious than it was in former Times; and the Candidates Employment, in that Way, become so numerous, as to be no room for such extravagant Demands as have lately made, and which have been very justly com- ed of. The *English* Stage has never wanted very us Actors. We read in *Baker's* Chronicles, of in- comparable Players in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*; *Richard Burbage*, *Edward Allen*, and *Richard Tarleton*; and so much admir'd, that his Head was set up for in several Parts of the Town. As for Mr. *Allen*, never had so much as 3 l. a Week, and yet he saved enough to erect a College at *Dulwich*, and two Almshouses in this City. It is very true, that 3 l. a Week was a greater Salary than it would be now; but there is no being that Disproportion, that modern Players

contend for; and I shall hereafter make it apparent, that Players have, at present, many Advantages which they had not then; and which are more than Equivalent to the Difference between the Expences of those Days and these.

I must likewise take Notice, that whatever the Managers may think of it, our Theatres were better directed heretofore, than they are at present. When *Ben Johnson* wrote for the Stage, *Inigo Jones* had the Management of the Scenes and Decorations. In succeeding Times, Sir *William D'Avenant*, and Mr. *Killegrew*, gave as pregnant Proofs, to the full, of their Capacities, as even the ingenious Mr. *Rich* himself; and yet they never attempted to impose excessive Prices, or aspired to live with the Magnificence of Men of Quality, from the Profits of a Playhouse. Decorum was in those Days better understood; People were satisfied with living, in a Manner, suitable to their Rank; and never thought of emulating in their Houses, Equipage, or Dress, those from whose Bounty they deriv'd their Subsistence. These Follies were reserv'd for later Times, when Men of Quality have condescended to converse with such People; and thereby done all in their Power, to destroy the Distinction there ought to be between Players, and such as maintain them.

This, Sir, seems to me to be very just Reflections, and I flatter myself they will also appear so to you. I shall take another Opportunity to give you my own Thoughts on the Choice of old Plays, which deserve to be reviv'd. In the mean time, I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

PETER PROMPTWELL.

Tom's Coffee-House,
Thursday Evening.

I R E L A N D.

Dublin, October 27. On Tuesday Evening several drunken riotous Fellows, said to be some Recruits of the Boyne Privateers, went thro' Essex-street, and beat and abused all they met in their Way, without Distinction; and had it not been for the Resolution and Bravery of some People of Credit, no one can tell where their Wick- edness would have ended. One of the Riotors was so dangerously wounded, that he died of the same on Thurs- day. Some of them are since taken, and committed to Newgate by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor; who is not only vigilant with Regard to our Markers, but also for preserving the Peace of the City.

Robert Felton, Esq; is made Deputy Secretary to his Excellency the Lord Newport, Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, in the room of Samuel Whyte, Esq; deceased.

Last Friday a Woman at Eyre-Court, went to take some Cloaths out of a Garden, and left a Child in the House; but while she was absent, a Sow came in, and eat a great Part of the Infant's Head, and some Parts of the Body.

They write from Rathdrum, in the County of Wick- low, that on Monday Night last, they had the greatest Rain, and loudest Thunder, that any Person in those Parts can remember. The Thunder-Bolt fell just by Cronyburn Wood, stript the Bark off the But of a great Tree, and plowed up a Piece of Ground, the Length of Twenty-one, and the Breadth of Twelve Feet. We had, in this City, the same Night, great Flashes of Lightning, yet no Claps nor rumbling of Thunder were heard, but were followed by very long and heavy Showers of Rain.

Last Wednesday Night, a young Gentleman was robb'd at the Pit Door of Smock-Alley Playhouse, by a single Man, who clapt a Pistol to his Breast, and took from him two Guineas and a Half, and some Silver.

Yesterday the Servant Misd of Mr. Richardson, Linen Draper in Bride-street, was tried and found Guilty, at the Commission of Oyer and Terminer, for robbing her Master of a great Quantity of Goods, and receiv'd Sentence to be executed next Wednesday.

The same Day the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor took up several vagrant Persons, and sent them in a Cart to the Work-house.

H O M E P O R T S.

Dublin, October 27. Arrived the *St. Clare*, M^{rs} McCarthy, from Bayonne; the *Amicable*, Coireau, and the *Francis*, Michael, Neleau, from Bourdeaux; the *Diana*, Ridley, from Gottenburgh; the *Ufro* Jacob, Garrity, from Rot- terdam; and the *Elizabeth*, Phillips, from Barbados Sailed the *St. Thomas*, Jacob, from Oporto.

Lancaster, October 30. Arrived the *Indian Queen*, Nuns, from Barbados, last from Lowfwillly; and the *Ruby*, Besrown, from Riga.

Liverpool, October 29. Arrived the *Judith*, from Norway.

Falmouth, October 29. Wind W. Since my last arrived the *Sufanna*, Dobbins, from London for Maryland.

Cowes, October 31. Yesterday came in the *Sarah* and *Helena*, De Voagdr, from Zurichzee for Nantz.

Deal, November 1. Wind W. S. W. The *Grenado* Bomb is sailed for the Northward. Remain the *Princefs Louisa* Man of War, and the *Saudadeer*, Blackbee, for Lisbon. Arrived the *Peace*, Porter, from Rotter- dam.

Arrived

At Milford, the *Venus* Prize, Kirby, from St. Kitts.
At Bristol, the *Samuel*, Lind, from Gottenburgh.

L O N D O N.

The Prime Minister Privateer, Capt. —, of Lon- don, was taken the 21st of October, in Latt. 44: or thereabouts, by Five French Men of War, of the Breff Squadron, from Cadiz; who took out most of the Eng- lish Seamen, and put on board about 40 Frenchmen to carry her to France; and they parted Company with the Men of War that Night, and saw them again the 23d, when they had taken Five English Ships. They were very clean, and thought to be Outward-bound. On the 25th the *Trial* Privateer, of Bristol, retook her, and sent her into Bristol; as mentioned in Yesterday's Ga- zetteer.

They write from Dartmouth of the 30th of October, that on the 25th the *Dartmouth* Galley Privateer, of 20 Guns, and the *Fortune* Ketch, of 10 Guns, sailed from thence; and on the 27th fell in with two French Men of War, one of 45, and the other of 47 Guns, with whom the *Dartmouth* Galley engaged for three Glissos, very gallantly; when her Commander, Capt. Soper, be- ing kill'd, with another Man, and several wounded, she was obliged to strike. The French, as the Sea run high, did not send their own Boat, but order'd the *Galley's* Boat out, and her Officers to come on Board, and then sent her back to bring the Men; which they continu- ed to do, till they got all out but 23, which were left by the Boat's sinking along-side the French Men of War. Night coming on, they order'd the Privateers to keep under their Stern; but being very Foggy, they slipped away from the French, and, with the Ketch, is got safe to Dartmouth. On Sunday Night the said Ketch saw 11 Sail of French Men of War, but had the good For- tune to escape them.

A Privateer belonging to Montferat has taken, and brought into that Island, a French Guinea Ship, with 311 Negroes.

The Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Treas- ury, have appointed Mr. Nicholas Mills to be Surveyor of Houses, for Part of the County of Somerset, in the room of Mr. Edward Chinn, deceased.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Earl of Lauderdale, set out from his House in Pall Mall, for Scotland.

Last Thursday Anne Collyer was committed to New- gate by Sir Robert Ladbroke, for violently assaulting one Alexander Forfar, a Headborough, near Cow-Croft, and taking from him a Handkerchief, value 2 s.

And Yesterday Elizabeth Quinsy was committed to the same Place, for picking the Pocket of Mr. George Robertson, a Taylor, in Petticoat-lane, of 2 s. in Silver, a Snuff Box, a Stock Buckle, and some other Things.

The same Day Anne Barber was committed to Wood- street Compter, for stealing out of the Shop of Mr. Merryfield, an Upholder, near the Fleet Market, a Piece of Printed Linen, of considerable Value, which was found upon her.

As were likewise Mary Billingsley to the Poultry Compter, for further Examination, on a strong Suspicion of being concerned in several Street-Robberies.

As was also two others to Newgate, for being con- cerned in divers Felonies and Street-Robberies, in and about the Cities of London and Westminster.

High Water this Day	at London-Bridge.	Morning	Evening
		08 37	09 04

Bank Stock, 144 3-4ths. India, 180 3-4ths to 1-half. South Sea, Nothing done. Old Annuity, 110 1-half to 3-4ths to 5-8ths. New ditto, 110 3-4ths to 7 8ths. Three per Cent. 93. Ditto 1743, 92 1-half. Ditto 1744, 92 7 8ths. Seven per Cent. Loan. Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Assurance, 83. London Assurance, 11. India Bonds, 2 l. 13 s. to 14 s. Bank Circulation, 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. Salt Taxes, Nothing done. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, Nothing done. Three per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Million Bank, 115. Equivalent, 110. Tickets, 11 l. 3 s.

Hand-in-Hand FIRE-OFFICE.

THE Directors give Notice, That a General Meeting of the Members of the said Society will be held at their Office in Angel-Court, on Snow-Hill, on Thursday, the 8th Instant, by Three in the Afternoon: Where all who have insured are desired to be present.

N. B. The Election of Directors for the Year ensuing, by Ballotting, will be held at the same Place, on Monday the 9th, Tuesday the 6th, and Wednesday the 7th Instant, from Nine in the Forenoon to Twelve, and from Three to Six in the Afternoon.

On Wednesday the 15th of this Month,

Will be published, in Two Parts,

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In which are contained the following Trials; viz.

Richard Lee, otherwise Country Dick, for robbing William Price of his Hat and Wig, &c.

Anne Duck, and Anne Barefoot, for robbing George Cheshire of Four-pence, on the Highway.

Anne Gwynn, and Anne Barefoot, for robbing William Hamilton of 12s. 6d. in Black Boy Alley.

Thomas Wells, Theophilus Weston, Joshua Barnes, Thomas Kirby, and Anne Duck, for assaulting Alexander Fortar on the Highway, &c.

Francis Moulter, for ravishing Anne Bishop, an Infant of eight Years of Age.

Clement Haggitt, a Sergeant in the Guards, for the Murder of Samuel Waggett, a Sergeant in the same Regiment.

Edward Morgan, for the Murder of James Sparkes, a Watchman of Portico Ward.

Edmund Long, Henry Townley, and Charles Savage, for the Murder of Thomas Page. And

Peter Feligens, for breaking open Mr. Pinchbeck's House.

With several other material Trials.

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NUMBER VI. Of the Third Volume of

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III. The Atheistical Politician.

IV. An Ordinance of Parliament on the 22d of January, 1643, for regulating the University of Cambridge, and for removing scandalous Ministers in the seven adjacent Counties.

V. A Commission granted by the Earl of Manchester, according to the Power given him by the foregoing Ordinance, with his Instructions for removing scandalous Ministers, within the County of Suffolk. M. S.

VI. The Corruption and Deficiency of the Laws of England, soberly discovered. By J. Warr.

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Note, They are to be had for one Shilling and Sixpence the small Vial, at the Golden Dove, under the Statuary's, facing Serjeants Inn in Fleetstreet; where an Abstract of its Virtues may be had gratis.

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Jer. viii. 22.

And I will pour upon the House of David, and upon the Inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of Grace, and of Supplication; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only Son; and shall be in Bitterness for him, as one that is in Bitterness for his First-Born.

Zeck. xii. 10.

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